

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11963 161747Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /100 W
-----103040 161802Z /72

O 161722Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7336
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11963

LONDON PLEASE PASS AMB. CHAMBERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS: KING ASKS TINDEMANS
TO MAKE NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE CRISIS

REF: BRUSSELS 11896

1. THE PALACE ANNOUNCED AT 5:00 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON
(JUNE 16) THAT THE KING HAD DECIDED TO REFUSE PRIME
MINISTER TINDEMANS' RESIGNATION (REFTEL), HAD ASKED
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TINDEMANS TO MAKE A NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS, AND
THAT TINDEMANS HAD AGREED.

2. IN A SUBSEQUENT RADIO INTERVIEW, TINDEMANS SAID THAT
THE KING, IN VIEW OF THE GRAVITY OF THE ECONOMIC AND
BUDGETARY SITUATION, REGIONAL PROBLEMS, AND THE INTERNA-
TIONAL SITUATION, HAD ASKED HIM MAKE A NEW EFFORT TO

RESOLVE THE POLITICAL CRISIS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE MISSION. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE ADDED THAT HE CONSIDERS HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE IN A CARETAKER STATUS.

3. COMMENT: THE CRISIS SCENARIO APPEARS TO BE UNFOLDING ABOUT AS EXPECTED (REFTEL), ALBEIT IN A SOMEWHAT ACCELERATED FASHION. THE KING'S DECISION WILL SEND THE PRIME MINISTER BACK INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH A STRENGTHENED HAND. TINDEMANS' CREDIBILITY ALSO WILL HAVE BEEN ENHANCED BY HIS HAVING MADE GOOD ON HIS APRIL 12 "ULTIMATUM" TO RESIGN IF AN ANTI-CRISIS BILL WERE NOT VOTED IN THE ENSUING TWO MONTHS (BRUSSELS 7931). THE COMMUNITY ISSUE HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE BUDGET DEBATE, IT IS NOW PROBABLE THAT SOME SORT OF TIMETABLE FOR PARALLEL ACTION ON BUDGET REFORM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EGMONT-STUYVENBURG ACCORDS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK, THERE NOW EXISTING NO AGREED LEGAL TEXT ON THESE ACCORDS. SOURCES IN THE CVP HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM IN THE CURRENT CRISIS REMAINS THE DISTRUST BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR COALITION PARTNERS, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS AND THE SOCIALISTS. DETARR

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